

# U

**U, u** /ju/ *noun* (plural **U's**, **Us**, **u's** or **us**) a vowel, the 21st letter of the English alphabet.

**u** atomic mass unit.

**U** /ju/ *adjective* *Colloquial* appropriate to or characteristic of the upper class. Compare **non-U**. [initial of **UPPER** (CLASS); from a theory devised by an academic and then popularised by Nancy Mitford in an article in *Noblesse Oblige* (1956) positing that people could be divided into U and Non-U by their vocabulary]

**U<sup>2</sup>** /u, ju/ *noun* (a Burmese title of respect for a man, used before the proper name.) [Burmese: uncle]

**U<sup>3</sup>** 1. Union. 2. United. 3. University. 4. Upper. 5. Chemistry uranium.

**UAE** United Arab Emirates.

**UAI** /ju er 'ai/ *noun* Universities Admission Index; a score out of 100 which reports a student's achievement in relation to that of other students, based on the results gained in the end of secondary schooling qualification and used by universities to select school leavers for admission; used in NSW and the ACT.

**uakari** /wə'kari/ *noun* any of the short-tailed monkeys of the genus *Cacajao*, especially *C. rubicundus* of the Amazon basin. [Tupi]

**UAP** United Australia Party.

**UAR** United Arab Republic.

**UART** /'juat/ *noun* a chip (chip<sup>1</sup> def. 6) which processes data in a serial form which the computer will accept, and allows the operator to receive data from, and to put data into, the keyboard. [*U*(niversal) *A*(synchronous) *R*(eceiver-) *T*(ransmitter)]

**UAV** /ju er 'vi/ *noun* an unmanned aerial vehicle.

**ubac** /'jubæk/ *noun* a mountain slope shaded from the sun. [French dialect, from Latin *opacus* dark]

**Ubangi** /ju'bæŋgi/ *noun* a river forming a part of the boundary between the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Central African Republic, and Congo, flowing into the river Congo. About 1126 km (with the Vele 2253 km). French, **Oubangui**. Also, **Mobangi**, **Mubangi**.

**ube** /'ubei/ *noun* a species of yam with violet-coloured flesh, in the Philippines eaten as a fruit and used in desserts; purple yam. Also, **ubi**. [Tagalog]

**ubend** /'ju-bend/ *noun* a piece of plumbing pipe in the shape of a U, designed to trap water in the lowest part of the bend so as to prevent noxious fumes from coming back up the pipe.

**uber-** /'ubə-/ 1. a prefix denoting the greatest or most extreme example of its kind: *uberbabe*; *ubernerd*. 2. a prefix used as an intensifier: *uberfit*. [German *über* over]

**Übermensch** /'ubəməŋ/ *noun* the superior man described by Friedrich Nietzsche in *Thus Spake Zarathustra*, who overcomes the limitations of ordinary men through overcoming nihilism.

**ubosexual** /ubə'seksʃuəl/ *noun* a heterosexual man who is stylish but not ultra-groomed, confident but not aggressive, sensitive but also completely masculine. [*UBER-* + *SEXUAL*]

**ubervalliance** /'ubəvɛləns/ *noun* an omnipresent electronic surveillance facilitated by technology that makes it possible to embed surveillance devices in the human body. Also, **überveillance**.

**ubi** /'ubi/ *noun* → **ube**.

**ubety** /ju'baɪəti/ *noun* the state of being in a definite place; condition with respect to place; local relation. [New Latin *ubietas*, from Latin *ubi* where]

**ubiquinone** /ju'bi'kwɪnɒn/ *noun* any of a group of closely related quinone compounds found widely distributed in living tissues. [*UBI*(QUITOUS) + *QUINONE*]

**ubiquitous** /ju'bi'kwɪtəs/ *adjective* characterised by ubiquity; being everywhere at the same time; present everywhere; omnipresent. Also, *Rare*, **ubiquitary**. [*UBIQUIT*(Y) + *-OUS*] **-ubiquitously**, *adverb* **-ubiquitousness**, *noun*

**ubiquity** /ju'bi'kwɪti/ *noun* 1. the state or capacity of being everywhere at the same time; omnipresence. 2. (upper case) *Theology* the omnipresent state of God or Christ. [New Latin *ubiquitas*, from Latin *ubique* everywhere]

**ubi supra** /ubi 'supra/ *adverb* in the page or passage previously referred to. [Latin: where above]

**U-boat** /'ju-bout/ *noun* a German submarine. [semi-translation of *U-boot*, shortened form of German *Unterseeboot* undersea boat]

**U-bolt** /'ju-boult/ *noun* a rod of iron bent into the form of the letter U, fitted at both ends with a screw thread which takes a nut.

**u.c.** 1. *Music* 'one string'; soft pedal. [*una corda*] 2. upper case (letter or letters).

**UCC** ultra-clean coal.

**Uccello** /u'tʃelou/ *noun* **Paolo** /'paoulou/, c.1396-1475, Italian painter; especially noted for his use of perspective.

**UCHD** Usual Childhood Diseases.

**UCLA** University of California at Los Angeles.

**UCP** undercover parking.

**UCQ** /ju si 'kju/ University of Central Queensland.

**UCV** /ju si 'vi/ unimproved capital value.

**'ud** /əd/ *verb* (modal) (in representations of speech) would: anybody 'ud do it.

**UDA** Ulster Defence Association.

**udder** /'ʌdə/ *noun* a mamma or mammary gland, especially when pendulous and with more than one teat, as in cows. [Middle English *uðdre*, Old English *ūder*] **-udderless**, *adjective* **-udder-like**, *adjective* **-uddered**, *adjective*

**UDF** Union pour la Démocratie Française.

**udo** /'udou/ *noun* a plant, *Aralia cordata*, cultivated especially in Japan and China for its edible shoots. [Japanese]

**urometer** /ju'domɪtə/ *noun* a rain gauge; a pluviometer. [French *uromètre*, from Latin *uāus* wet, damp + *-o-* *-o-* + *-mètre* -METER<sup>1</sup>] **-urometric** /ju'də'metrɪk/, *adjective* **-urometry**, *noun*

**udon** /u'dɒn/ *noun* (in Japanese cookery) a thick noodle, round or square and made from wheat or cornflour; usually served hot in soup. [Japanese]

**UDR** Ulster Defence Regiment.

**U-ey** /'ju-i/ *noun* *Colloquial* 1. a U-turn. *-phrase* 2. **chuck** a **U-ey**, to do a U-turn. Also, **U-le**, **Uey**.

**UF** /ju 'ef/ urea formaldehyde.

**UFFI** /ju ef 'ef 'aɪ/ urea formaldehyde foam insulation.

**UFO<sup>1</sup>** /ju ef 'ou, 'jufoʊ/ *noun* (plural **UFOs** or **UFO's**) unidentified flying object.

**UFO<sup>2</sup>** /ju ef 'ou/ *noun* *Colloquial* a piece of handiwork, such as knitting, quilting, etc., which has not been finished. [*u(n)finished* (*object*)]

**ufologist** /ju'fələdʒɪst/ *noun* someone who studies UFOs: \*Many **UFOlogists** support the notion that these large cigar-shaped objects are 'Motherships' -MURRAY STOTT, 1984. Also, **UFOlogist**.

**ufology** /ju'fələdʒi/ *noun* the study of reported sightings, etc., of UFOs, and related phenomena. Also, **UFOlogy**. [*UFO*<sup>1</sup> + *-LOGY*]

**Uganda** /ju'gændə/ *noun* a republic in eastern Africa, bordered by Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Lake Victoria; a British protectorate before independence in 1962; became a federal republic in 1963; a unitary republic since 1967. Pop. 24 551 021 (2002); 241 139 km<sup>2</sup>. *Languages*: English, Swahili, Luo and Luganda. *Currency*: Uganda shilling. *Capital*: Kampala. **-Ugandan**, *noun, adjective*

**ugarl** /'jugəri/ *noun* (plural **ugaries**) → **eugarie**.

**Ugaritic** /u'gərɪtɪk/ *noun* 1. an extinct Semitic language of northern Syria. *-adjective* 2. of or relating to this language. [from *Ugarit*, an ancient Syrian city-state]

**ugg boot** /'ʌg but/ *noun* a boot with an upper made from sheepskin with the fleece tanned into the skin, the fleece being on the inside of the boot and the leather on the outside. Also, **ug boot**, **ugh boot**. [origin uncertain; ? shortened form of *ugly boot*]

**uggies** /'ʌgɪz/ *plural noun* *Colloquial* ugg boots.

**ugh** /ə/ *interjection* 1. (an exclamation expressing disgust, aversion, horror, or the like.) 2. (a representation of the sound of a cough or grunt.) [imitative]

**ugli fruit** /'hugli frʊt/ *noun* a large, juicy fruit with a thick yellow skin, a cross between a tangerine, a grapefruit, and a Seville orange. [Trademark **UGLI**; ? from the unattractive, wrinkled skin]

**uglify** /'ʌglɪfaɪ/ *verb* (t) (uglified, uglifying) to make ugly. [*UGLY* + *-FY*] **-uglification** /ʌglɪfə'keɪʃən/, *noun*

**ugly** /'ʌgli/ *adjective* (**uglier**, **ugliest**) 1. repulsive or displeasing in appearance; offensive to the sense of beauty: *ugly furniture*. 2. morally revolting: *ugly sin*. 3. disagreeable; unpleasant; objectionable: \*Then there was the ugly side to our personalities. -PHILLIP ADAMS, 1975. 4. of a troublesome nature; threatening disadvantage or danger: *ugly symptoms*. 5. unpleasantly or dangerously rough: *ugly weather*. 6. ill-natured. 7. manifesting the most unattractive qualities of a nationality. See **ugly American**, **ugly Australian**. *-phrase* *Colloquial* 8. (as) **ugly as a hatful of arseholes**, † very displeasing in appearance. 9. (as) **ugly as sin**, extremely ugly. [Middle English, from Old Norse *uggligr* fearful, dreadful] **-uglily**, *adverb* **-ugliness**, *noun*

**ugly American** /ʌgli ə'merɪkən/ *noun* an American who exhibits, especially in foreign locations, what are thought to be the worst qualities of his or her nationality, such as an overbearing, loud, and insensitive manner and an exploitative greed.

**ugly Australian** /ʌgli ə'streɪljən/ *noun* an Australian who exhibits, especially in foreign locations, what are thought to be the worst qualities of his or her nationality, such as crass and boorish behaviour and an unwillingness to enter into anyone else's culture or lifestyle.

**ugly duckling** /ʌgli 'dʌklɪŋ/ *noun* an unattractive or unpromising child who becomes a beautiful or much admired adult. [name of a story by Hans Christian Andersen]

**ugly stick** /'ʌgli stɪk/ *noun* *Colloquial* a mythical stick with which a person has been hit in order to make them ugly.

**Ugrian** /'ju'grɪən, 'ju-/ *adjective* 1. Also, **Ugric**, denoting or relating to an ethnological group including the Magyars and related peoples of western Siberia and north-eastern Russia in